Interreg Baltic Sea Region

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ENERGY TRANSITION
GreenIndustrialAreas

Project Newsletter #4

The project GreenIndustrialAreas empowers public authorities to increase the share of smart and climate-neutral industrial areas and co-develop a transnational certification standard. The project is funded by the Interreg Baltic Sea Region programme of the European Union.

Partner meeting and study visits to Jyväskylä, Finland

On 13th & 14th of March 2024 the project consortium visited Jyväskylä and the Central Finland Region for a partner meeting and study visits to several companies in different economic areas. During the meeting the consortium discussed details about the project's pilot phase, which involves industrial areas from Latvia, Poland, Denmark, Finland and Germany. You can learn more about the event and see some photos on our website.

An Interview with Maria Kozakiewicz, representing the Suwalska Special Economic Zone in Poland

Sustainable development is becoming an increasingly urgent topic in the industrial sector. Companies are actively seeking ways to reduce emissions and efficiently utilize natural resources. One key tool in this pursuit is obtaining a green certificate for industrial areas. But what benefits can such certificates bring to businesses? How can certification impact their development and attractiveness to potential investors? In a conversation with Maria Kozakiewicz from SSSE S.A., we'll explore these questions and understand why investing in industrial ecology is a crucial step towards a sustainable future.

What benefits could a green certificate bring to industrial areas?
SSSE S.A. supports entrepreneurs investing in Renewable Energy Sources (RES). By investing in renewable energy devices such as photovoltaic systems, heat pumps, or biomass energy, businesses can reduce operating costs. We also advocate for sustainable development and low-emission economies, as the electricity used in production comes from ecological sources, with a low carbon footprint and no greenhouse gas emissions. Entrepreneurs receiving support from SSSE S.A. often expand their enterprises, simultaneously investing in renewable energy sources. This is one of the quality criteria they can choose when applying for support.

How can certification influence the development of industrial firms?
Investing in renewable energy sources can be the first step towards obtaining a green certificate for a company. Such actions are positively received by customers, investors, and business partners, contributing to brand reputation and trust. Furthermore, implementing eco-friendly practices, often required to obtain a green certificate, can lead to reduced energy, water, and raw material consumption, resulting in financial savings.

What potential benefits will obtaining a certificate bring to an industrial area in terms of increasing attractiveness to firms interested in belonging to this industrial zone?
It's worth noting that larger cities have industrial districts where numerous manufacturing firms are concentrated. Areas managed by SSSE S.A., such as Białystok, Suwałki, Ełk, or Gołdap, are prime examples. These firms utilize appropriate technical infrastructure, collaborate with each other, and cities adjust public transportation to ensure commuting to work. Such districts are often located near major traffic routes. Therefore, there are many benefits. While these businesses are often responsible for emitting various substances into the environment, they reinvest and gradually introduce new technologies to

minimize energy consumption and reduce CO2 emissions. New buildings - even industrial ones - are designed in a completely new, eco-friendly way, using environmentally friendly materials and energy-efficient solutions. Entrepreneurs also invest in photovoltaic farms, and may even place beehives on the roofs of their buildings. Investing in environmentally friendly solutions that also improve a company's financial efficiency is worthwhile. Thanks to this approach, industrial zones are becoming green.

One example from the Suwalka industrial area

Malow Sp. z o.o. has invested in Renewable Energy Technologies (RET) by installing photovoltaic panels on the roofs of its buildings. The project involved the installation of a photovoltaic power plant with a capacity of 1895.96 kW to harness solar energy and produce electricity, as well as the installation of an air-to-water heat pump with a capacity of 3.2 kW, serving as a source of domestic hot water. The aim was to ensure maintenance-free operation of heating devices and reduce overall heating costs. Additionally, the project aimed to reduce operational costs and mitigate the negative environmental impact of Malow Sp. z o.o. As part of the project, the company constructed a rooftop/ground-mounted photovoltaic power plant in 2020 with a capacity of 1895.96 kW. This action contributed to a reduction in CO2 emissions by 26.72% (source).

The map above shows the adminstrative areas which belong to the Suwalka Special Economic zone.

Meet our partners: Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia

Currently, there are several investment programmes aimed towards sustainable development of local governments under the responsibility of MoEPRD such as investments for adaption and resilience associated with risks imposed by climate change, improvement of energy efficiency in buildings, capacity building for local government and planning region

Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development
Republic of Latvia

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia (MoEPRD) is a state administrative institution responsible for implementing policy in three areas - environmental protection, regional development as well as information and communication technologies. With regards to the GreenIndustrialAreas project, MoEPRD is represented by the State Sustainable Development Planning Department, where among other responsibilities implementation and evalutation of regional policy at the national level, provision of methodological guidelines and support for municipalities and planning regions with the overall goal to achieve well-balanced and sustainable development of the country can be mentioned.

specialists as well as three different investments towards the development of business infrastructure, including industrial areas, within the support provided by the Recovery and Resilience Facility, the Just Transition Fund and the European Union Cohesion Policy 2021-2027.

Taking into account the role of MoEPRD at the national level to promote the shift towards climate neutrality and the importance of sustainable entrepreneurship in development as well as the potential benefits the project findings may have towards the achievement of long term national and international goals, the MoEPRD has a deep interest to take part in all activities of the project, monitor the pilot action in the Kaigu industrial zone and promote the results of GreenIndustrialAreas in Latvia by sharing them with the relevant stakeholders and assessing how the results can benefit both upcoming and existing policies and support measures. Within the project, the MoEPRD also holds a leading role for writing an overview on how local and regional strategies and policies of the partner territories were impacted and improved thanks to the project's learning and outputs.

Visit from a delegation from Umeå municipality

End of February a delegation including 23 persons from Umeå municipality, university, municipal companies etc. visited the southern part of Sweden and Denmark. The aim for the steering group of Umeå Eco Industrial Park, which is an area north of Umeå, wanting to be a world-leading center for green innovation, was to learn about how others successfully work with industrial symbioses as well as gather inspiration and ideas about how they can continue to develop Umeå and the area through circular business models. The delegation visited Kalundborg Symbiosis in Denmark, currently one of the sites selected for the pilot phase of the GreenIndustrialAreas project, Siptex, the world's first

large-scale facility for sorting textiles by color and fiber composition, Recolab, a world unique system for source-separated wastewater that recycles resources from domestic wastewater and food waste and exchanged with the Sustainable Business Hub Scandinavia, another partner in the GreenIndustrialAreas project to learn more about the symbiosis in Malmö port especially with regard to energy, water and waste. The visits allowed to introduce the aims and activities of the GreenIndustrialAreas project to the delegation

The conclusions were:
✓Much of what is happening in the field already includes industrial symbiosis.
✓The cooperation we have between academia, business and the municipality is a key.
✓Sustainable transports are a prerequisite.
✓Together they have the opportunity and good conditions to shape an attractive place to wo rk.

https://interreg-baltic.eu/project/greenindustrialareas/